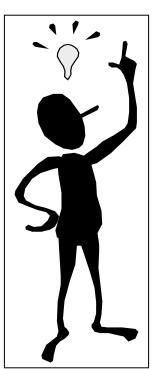


Georgia's Pre-K Program Open-Ended Questions to Help Children Think

- Can you describe what happened?
- Can you think of a new way to do it?
- Can you help me think this through?
- Do you have any other ideas?
- How are they alike, different?
- How could we make it work?
- · How could we work together to solve this?
- How did that happen?
- · How did you feel when you finished it?
- How did you get that to work?
- How did you know that?
- How did you work it out?
- How do you explain it?
- How might you do it differently?
- Tell me about how you worked together.
- Tell me about it.
- Tell me about the character (books).
- Tell me about what you built, made, created.
- Tell me about what you saw.
- What can we do to get it to work?
- What do you think will happen next? (books)
- What did you see happening?
- What do you like best about it?
- What do you notice about ____?
- What do you think caused it to change?
- What do you think would happen if you _____?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What happened at the beginning, middle or end of the story (books)?
- What did you learn?





- What makes it work?
- What did you notice happening?
- What problems did you have?
- What was easy?
- What was hard for you to do?
- · What would you do different next time?



Extend children's thinking by:

- Ask questions that encourage language development (verbal, written, and receptive).
- Paraphrase—repeat what the child said. Then add extra information to keep the child thinking.
- Add new vocabulary. Use new words like "observe", texture words (sticky, rough, silky), measurement words (gigantic, tiny, humongous, miniscule), etc.

Remember:

- If you can answer "yes" or "no" the question is not open-ended.
- Children are thinking so it takes time for them to respond. Be sure to allow them this time.

Excerpt from Georgia's Pre-K Content Standards

LD 4 Children will develop and expand expressive language (speaking) skills

	Performance Indicators	Examples
LD 4 a	Uses language for a variety of purposes	Uses language to express needs, feelings or preferences Uses different voices for characters in a story
LD 4 b	Engages in conversations with adults and children	Asks and answers questions for information and to solve problems Tells personal narrative Engages in turn-taking conversations
LD 4 c	Uses complete sentences of increasing length in conversation	Uses descriptive words Expands on ideas
LD 4 d	Uses language to pretend or create	Pretends with words or actions Tells real or make-believe stories

LD 1 Children will develop skills in listening for a purpose.

LD 1 b	Responds to questions	Answers questions from familiar adults and peers Responds to questions during causal conversation
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8/2008